

18 of these 61 cases the commission administered "pepto-mangan (Gude)," which had been donated by the Breitenbach Company. Of these 18 cases the Breitenbach Company says they "were selected on account of their extreme severity, and thus these cases represent the most crucial test to which any iron preparation can be subjected." Further, we are told: "The results obtained point so distinctly to the supremacy of 'pepto-mangan (Gude),' etc., and 'the report may be regarded as a supreme test' and 'as a triumph for pepto-mangan (Gude).'"

With these claims before us it is more than interesting to analyze the reports of the cases from which they are drawn. In 14 of the 18 "pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases that combination was the only iron preparation used; in the remaining 4 Blaud's pill was used during the latter part of treatment. In the other 43 cases (not mentioned in the Breitenbach pamphlet) the iron was administered in the form of Vallet's mass or Blaud's pill, either or both, with the exception of two cases in which no iron was used. In closing its report the commission notes that iron alone without expulsion of the uncinariaria is of little benefit and plays a part secondary to anthelmintics. Therefore, in this "supreme test," the relative value of the hematinic used will be largely determined by the time consumed in relieving the symptomatic anemia after removal of the parasitic cause.

Analyzing the 61 cases the following facts come to light, and it should here be noted that nothing in the original report indicates the "extreme severity" of the "pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases as compared with those in which other iron preparations were used. For the present purpose it is sufficient to compare the "pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases with those in which Blaud's pill alone was used:

	Cases.	Av. time of treatment. Days.
"Pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases reported cured	9	79.77
"Pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases reported cured in which Blaud's pill was used in latter part of treatment....	5	74.8
Blaud's pill cases reported cured.....	26	49

Two "pepto-mangan (Gude)" cases were reported "improved" in an average treatment time of 87 days, while the other two were fatal cases. This "supreme test" then shows that the patients treated with Blaud's pill recovered from the anemia in less than

"This editorial brought from the Breitenbach Company a letter addressed to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, which is worth quoting in this connection and also in connection with the correspondence with the *Medical Record*, which follows. The italics are ours.

"It seems to us, in looking over the issue of your journal for February 11th, that the editorial department of your publication is quite at variance with your advertising pages. A short while ago we sent you a new electrotpe stating that pepto-mangan was particularly applicable to the anemia of uncinariasis, and produced positive results if administered after proper treatment for the expulsion of the parasite. We did not make this statement until we had had conclusive proof from tests made by eminent men in the profession that such was the case. We make no haphazard statements ourselves. It is evident that either your editors do not read the advertising pages of your journal, or they wish to make a direct slap at one of their advertisers, and we can hardly see how it is to be any advantage for us to place an advertisement with you, if in the editorial pages you are going to directly contradict our statement. We refer to your editorial on page 478, in which you make the statement, 'The day of blind reliance on iron, quinin and tonics in general in the treatment of anemic conditions in tropical countries is past, never to return,' and this in the face of our advertisement for which we pay you. It looks to us a little like taking our money and in turn going out of your way to slap us in the face, for had that paragraph been omitted from your editorial, we think you will agree with us that the value of the article would in no way have been lessened, and we should feel in a very different frame of mind than we do now. Had it been written by one of your contributors we would have let the statement pass, and set it down to ignorance, but coming as it does from your editors, who should be thoroughly conversant with the advertisements you carry, we cannot but feel that it is very unfriendly toward us.

"We shall be glad to hear from you on the subject."

two-thirds of the time required when "pepto-mangan (Gude)" was used. On this point the commission itself says (page 119): "Thus it is quite difficult to accurately judge the comparative value of different iron preparations, yet it is noticed, even by some patients, that Blaud's pill gave more rapid results."

In the face of these clinical facts and of this plain declaration from the commission, the physician may well ask: Why in the name of prudence did the Breitenbach Company circulate a pamphlet and advertise in medical journals a claim that "this report alone would suffice to establish pepto-mangan at once as the foremost hematinic known"? As the report actually draws a contrary lesson, the course of the company can only be explained either as due to its exaggerated confidence in the credulity of physicians or to its own neglect to read the report before abstracting it. Which hypothesis is most probable? Physicians who have read the "write-ups" of "pepto-mangan (Gude)" appearing in nearly all the medical journals of the country will have no difficulty in answering this question. Lastly, what of the honesty of circulating among medical men so misleading a document?—*Journal A. M. A.*, September 23, 1905.

PHARMACOLOGY.

AIBONITO, P. R., September, 18, 1905.

To the Editor:—It has come to our notice that the report of this commission, published December 1, 1904, is being used by the manufacturers of Gude's pepto-mangan to advertise their preparation of iron. As this advertisement puts us in a very unenviable and erroneous light before the medical profession generally, will you be kind enough to publish the following statement?

The advertisement in question purports to be a review of this report and, having attracted attention, proceeds by erroneous deductions and half-quotations in such a manner that one might believe that the commission indorsed their preparation of iron as the best hematic in the treatment of the anemia of uncinariasis.

As a matter of fact, the report (page 119) clearly states that we found the carbonate of iron to give the best results. Our report, on account of the limited edition, has never reached the majority of our professional brethren, and for this reason we quote the portion referred to:

"It will be noticed that slight cases readily recover without iron, and here the difference in the tables is more marked, while there is less difference among the marked cases in proportion to their number. In other words, the more resistant cases of all grades received iron, but even then did not generally recover as rapidly as those less rebellious without, for while ferruginous preparations seem to act readily in some instances, still, in the majority, its effect was not marked. The rapidity of cure is due, apparently, more to the personal equation of the patient and the rapidity with which the parasites are expelled, than to the amount of reconstructive treatment. Thus it is quite difficult accurately to judge the comparative value of different iron preparations, yet it was noticed, even by some patients, that Blaud's pills gave more rapid results."

We do not believe that a perusal of the histories of the eighteen cases which the advertisement quotes demonstrates the superiority of pepto-mangan (Gude), as these patients recovered more slowly than others of the same type who took Blaud's pills or Vallet's mass. In fact, on account of this slow recovery the carbonate of iron was substituted for pepto-mangan in five of the eighteen cases (Cases 8, 9, 10, 13 and 15). We ceased to use pepto-mangan and gave none to the later cases.

To support our statement we invite attention to the following figures taken from those given in the very report which the M. J. Breitenbach Co. cite as proving the superiority of their preparation:

There are sixty-one cases reported in full with

complete blood records and clinical histories. In eighteen of them pepto-mangan was used save toward the termination of five of them, when Blaud's pills were substituted. In eleven cases Vallet's mass was used, supplemented by Blaud's pills. In twenty-nine cases Blaud's pills were used exclusively. Three cases have no bearing on the subject.

Reconstructive Treatment.	Pepto-Mangan (Gude).	Blaud's Pills.	Vallet's Mass.
Average hemoglobin before treatment, per cent.	20.7	26.5	18.1
Average number of days under treatment	80.7	47.9	69.8
Average gain in hemoglobin during treatment, per cent.	62.3	66.8	66.6

But to bring out the difference between these drugs more vividly eighteen pairs of cases of like type have been tabulated, whose initial hemoglobins absolutely or nearly correspond. One of each pair was treated by Blaud's pills, the other by pepto-mangan. The demonstration is all the more potent in that both drugs were used in their true role as blood regenerators, in conjunction with thymol administered to both alike.

Case, No.	Form of Iron Used.	Hemoglobin Before Treatment.	Days Under Treatment.	Total Gain Hemoglobin.
1.	Pepto-mangan	33	100	68
56.	Blaud's pills..	33	56	70
3.	Pepto-mangan	25	71	78
52.	Blaud's pills..	25	36	75
4.	Pepto-mangan	28	97	72
50.	Blaud's pills..	27	36	75
6.	Pepto-mangan	22	101	48
25.	Blaud's pills..	22	43	78
7.	Pepto-mangan	10	63	93
28.	Blaud's pills..	11	71	90
8.	Pepto-mangan	34	101	44
46.	Blaud's pills..	35	36	69
9.	Pepto-mangan	20	99	83
43.	Blaud's pills..	20	50	81
10.	Pepto-mangan	20	92	84
51.	Blaud's pills..	20	50	63
11.	Pepto-mangan	32	95	48
47.	Blaud's pills..	32	36	70
12.	Pepto-mangan	27	80	3
53.	Blaud's pills..	25	50	84
13.	Pepto-mangan	14	94	95
23.	Blaud's pills..	14	50	66
14.	Pepto-mangan	16	93	85
45.	Blaud's pills..	16	57	46
15.	Pepto-mangan	11	84	99
22.	Blaud's pills..	12	71	92
16.	Pepto-mangan	20	92	70
60.	Blaud's pills..	19	28	71
17.	Pepto-mangan	9	36	6
21.	Blaud's pills..	13	71	89
18.	Pepto-mangan	16	98	66
59.	Blaud's pills..	18	53	57
19.	Pepto-mangan	28	49	75
42.	Blaud's pills..	31	57	3
33.	Pepto-mangan	9	8	6
20.	Blaud's pills..	22	27	48

That is to say, of eighteen pairs of almost identical cases, the initial average of hemoglobin percentage in the cases treated by Blaud's pills was 21.9; in those treated by pepto-mangan (Gude), 20.7; the average number of days under treatment was 48.7 in the cases treated by Blaud's pills; in those treated by pepto-mangan (Gude), 80.7; the average gain in hemoglobin under Blaud's pills was 68.1 per cent; under pepto-mangan (Gude), 62.3 per cent.

We tried to use a variety of iron preparations and were offered the pepto-manganates made by this company. We had no idea that this preparation differed essentially from any other pepto-manganate of iron, and it certainly may not, but had we considered

the pepto-manganates of superior value as blood regenerators we would have said so. As it is, we have said the contrary and wrote this company to that effect at the time we became convinced of it.

This commission does not wish to be understood to consider the use of reconstructive treatment as a necessity in the anemia of uncinariasis. Such an idea is all the more absurd in view of the fact that in the 12,000 cases treated under its direction since June 1, 1905, comparatively little reconstructive treatment has been used, many cases receiving none at all. As our experience with this disease widens, our opinion is strengthened that anthelmintic treatment is not only curative, but promptly so, in the vast majority of cases, iron or no iron. Thanking you in advance for the use of your columns,

We are, very truly yours,

BAILEY K. ASHFORD,

W. W. KING,

PEDRO GUTIERREZ YGARAVIDEZ,

Members of the Commission.

Journal A. M. A., Oct. 7, 1905.

THE MEDICAL RECORD AND THE PROPAGANDA AGAINST NOSTRUMS.

A little while ago the New York *Medical Record* contained a two-page advertisement of the Etna Chemical Company, which evidently was intended to counteract the effect of the report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry which showed phenalgin to be a simple acetanilid mixture. Still more recently the same journal contained another two-page advertisement, one of which was occupied with a cartoon intended to cast ridicule on the efforts being made against the nostrum evil. Since these advertisements appeared in a scientific medical journal and a journal that is supposed to represent intelligent physicians, one might charitably suppose that they were admitted through lack of supervision. Such does not appear to be the case, however.

Under date of September 8th, the editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* sent the following letter to the *Medical Record*:

To the Editor: Your issue for last week, September 2d, contains a two-page advertisement of the Etna Chemical Company relating to their preparation, phenalgin. One page is entirely taken up with a cartoon evidently intended to deride the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and the propaganda against nostrums. The other page contains what is presumed to be an answer to the official announcement of the Committee on Chemistry regarding its investigation into certain preparations offered to the profession and to the public, especially as it is related to phenalgin. Permit me to quote from the advertisement as it appears on advertising page 21 of the *Record*: "Recently certain ill-advised persons have attempted to confuse Phenalgin with patent and quack Nostrums, and have so far succeeded that the influence of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* has been brought to bear against our legitimate and ethical business."

"We believe that Commercialism of the rankest kind has dominated this absurd crusade against us. These people may call Phenalgin a mixture, or a compound, or anything that pleases them; it does not in the least change the fact that Phenalgin is just what we have always said it to be."

"We know that doctors who are practicing medicine and prescribing Phenalgin will continue to do so regardless of the reports of alleged analytical chemists whose experience in the sick room is an atom of a myth compared with that of those who are continually using our product."

My object in writing you is to briefly state certain facts solely for the information of your readers.

What the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association is and what its functions are are well known to your readers. While the council has been outlining plans for work, making investigation into various products, it has published but one official report; this was on six preparations, viz.: ammonol, antikamnia, Koehler's headache powders, orangeine, phenalgin and salacatin (sal-codeia-Bell). The report on phenalgin was as follows:

"According to the analysis of the contents of the original sealed packages as purchased, this was found to be a mixture, and to contain the following ingredients approximately in the proportions given:

Acetanilid.	Sodium bicarb.	Ammonium carb.
57	29	10